

U.S. Application No. 09/937,163  
Reply to Office Action Mailed June 6, 2003

### Amendments to the Claims

#### Claims 1 – 15 (previously cancelled)

16. ~~(currently amended)~~ A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out wherein the said opening is punched out of in a packaging material;

coating said the packaging material is coated at least in the area of the said opening,

*New matter?*

creating a package sleeve is created from the said packaging material;

conveying said package sleeve onto a non-rotating mandrel of a mandrel

wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package; and

attaching a tear open said tear-off strip is attached to the said opening in the said package sleeve,

and wherein the package sleeve is slid onto a mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling the package and

wherein said the tear open tear-off strip is attached either at the said mandrel of the said mandrel wheel, or in the region of a pocket with the help of an anvil.

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17. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said package sleeve is conveyed to the said filling machine in such a way that its opening points outward across the working direction of the said filling machine.

18. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90° between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on the said filling machine and the location where the said tear-off strip is attached.

19. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16,  
wherein said mandrel wheel is driven in cycles and has at least two  
mandrels; and  
wherein the said tear-off strip is applied between the mandrels of a  
mandrel wheel which is driven in cycles, the tear-off strip applied using at least  
one welding device which is inserted between said two mandrels and is retracted  
again after the said tear-off strip has been welded.

20. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said tear-off strip or a pouring element is applied upstream from an aseptic station of the said filling machine.

21. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by welding.

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22. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the said tear-off strip or a said pouring element is attached by ultrasonic welding or high-frequency welding.
23. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by gluing.
24. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said tear-off strip or a pouring element is pulled off from a supply roll having a plurality of tear-off strips or pouring elements.  
*B3*
25. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the said tear-off strip or the said pouring element is conveyed by means of feed rollers and is detached from the said supply roll by a cutting device.  
*Wnt*
26. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said tear-off strip consists of a tear-resistant aluminum strip.
27. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said filling machine is a filling machine having multiple lanes.

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28. (previously added) A laminated package having an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, as produced by the method of Claim 16.

29. (new) A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:  
punching out said opening in a packaging material;  
coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;  
creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;  
conveying said package sleeve onto a non-rotating mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package; and  
attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve,  
wherein said package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90° between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on said filling machine and the location where said tear-off strip is attached.

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cont.*

30. (new) A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:  
punching out said opening in a packaging material;  
coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;  
creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;

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conveying said package sleeve onto a mandrel of a mandrel wheel driven  
in cycles having at least two mandrels upstream from a filling machine for filling  
said laminated package; and  
  
attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve,  
wherein said tear-off strip is applied using at least one welding device  
which is inserted between said two mandrels and is retracted again after said  
tear-off strip has been welded.

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